



January 26, 2016

SENATE BILL No. 234

DIGEST OF SB 234 (Updated January 21, 2016 1:58 pm - DI 104)

Citations Affected: IC 20-34; IC 34-30.

Synopsis: Education of coaches of student athletes. Requires, beginning July 1, 2017, the completion of a certified player safety education course by head coaches and assistant coaches before coaching student athletes in any sport. Sets forth requirements of the course. Provides civil immunity for coaches of student athletes who comply with the training and who provide coaching services in good faith from damages as a result of a concussion or head injury incurred by a student athlete.

Effective: July 1, 2016.

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January 7, 2016, read first time and referred to Committee on Family & Children Services.
January 25, 2016, amended, reported favorably — Do Pass.

SB 234—LS 6264/DI 110



January 26, 2016

Second Regular Session 119th General Assembly (2016)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2015 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

SENATE BILL No. 234

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning education.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

- 1 SECTION 1. IC 20-34-7-1.6 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
- 2 AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY
- 3 1, 2016]: **Sec. 1.6. As used in this chapter, "school" refers to a**
- 4 **public school and an accredited nonpublic school.**
- 5 SECTION 2. IC 20-34-7-1.7 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
- 6 AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY
- 7 1, 2016]: **Sec. 1.7. As used in this chapter, "student athlete" means**
- 8 **any student who:**
- 9 (1) attends a school;
- 10 (2) is in grade 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, or 12; and
- 11 (3) participates in any interscholastic or intramural sport,
- 12 including cheerleading.
- 13 SECTION 3. IC 20-34-7-3, AS ADDED BY P.L.144-2011,
- 14 SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
- 15 JULY 1, 2016]: Sec. 3. Each year, before beginning practice for an
- 16 interscholastic or intramural sport, a ~~high school~~ student athlete and the
- 17 student athlete's parent:

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(1) must be given the information sheet and form described in section 2 of this chapter; and

(2) shall sign and return the form acknowledging the receipt of the information to the student athlete's coach.

The coach shall maintain a file of the completed forms.

SECTION 4. IC 20-34-7-4, AS ADDED BY P.L.144-2011, SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2016]: Sec. 4. A ~~high school~~ student athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury in a practice or game:

(1) shall be removed from play at the time of the injury; and

(2) may not return to play until the student athlete has received a written clearance under section 5(a) of this chapter.

SECTION 5. IC 20-34-7-5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.34-2014, SECTION 2, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2016]: Sec. 5. (a) A ~~high school~~ student athlete who has been removed from play under section 4 of this chapter may not return to play until:

(1) the student athlete:

(A) is evaluated by a licensed health care provider trained in the evaluation and management of concussions and head injuries; and

(B) receives a written clearance to return to play from the health care provider who evaluated the student athlete; and

(2) not less than twenty-four (24) hours have passed since the student athlete was removed from play.

(b) A licensed health care provider who evaluates a student athlete under subsection (a) may conduct the evaluation as a volunteer. A volunteer health care provider who in good faith and gratuitously authorizes a student athlete to return to play is not liable for civil damages resulting from an act or omission in the rendering of an evaluation, except for acts or omissions that constitute gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct.

SECTION 6. IC 20-34-7-7 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2016]: Sec. 7. (a) **After June 30, 2017, before coaching a student athlete in any sport, a head coach and every assistant coach shall complete a certified coaching education course that:**

(1) contains player safety content on concussion awareness;

(2) requires a head coach or an assistant coach to complete a test demonstrating comprehension of the content of the course; and

(3) awards a certificate of completion to a head coach or an



1 assistant coach who successfully completes the course.

2 (b) A course described in subsection (a) must be approved by
3 the department, in consultation with a physician licensed under
4 IC 25-22.5 who has expertise in the area of concussions and brain
5 injuries.

6 (c) A head coach and every assistant coach shall complete a
7 course described in subsection (a) at least once each two (2) year
8 period. If a head coach or an assistant coach receives notice from
9 the school that new information has been added to the course
10 before the end of the two (2) year period, the head coach or the
11 assistant coach shall:

12 (1) complete instruction; and

13 (2) successfully complete a test;
14 concerning the new information to satisfy subsection (a).

15 (d) Each school shall maintain all certificates of completion
16 awarded under subsection (a)(3) to each of the school's head
17 coaches and assistant coaches.

18 (e) A head coach or an assistant coach who complies with this
19 section and provides coaching services in good faith is not
20 personally liable for damages in a civil action as a result of a
21 concussion or head injury incurred by a student athlete
22 participating in an athletic activity for which the head coach or the
23 assistant coach provided coaching services, except for an act or
24 omission by the head coach or the assistant coach that constitutes
25 gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct.

26 SECTION 7. IC 34-30-2-85.9, AS ADDED BY P.L.34-2014,
27 SECTION 4, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
28 JULY 1, 2016]: Sec. 85.9. IC 20-34-7-6 and **IC 20-34-7-7** (Concerning
29 coaches and assistant coaches).



COMMITTEE REPORT

Madam President: The Senate Committee on Family and Children Services, to which was referred Senate Bill No. 234, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the Senate with the recommendation that said bill be AMENDED as follows:

Page 1, between the enacting clause and line 1, begin a new paragraph and insert:

"SECTION 1. IC 20-34-7-1.6 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2016]: **Sec. 1.6. As used in this chapter, "school" refers to a public school and an accredited nonpublic school.**"

Page 2, delete lines 29 through 42.

Page 3, delete lines 1 through 26, begin a new paragraph and insert:

"SECTION 6. IC 20-34-7-7 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2016]: **Sec. 7. (a) After June 30, 2017, before coaching a student athlete in any sport, a head coach and every assistant coach shall complete a certified coaching education course that:**

- (1) contains player safety content on concussion awareness;**
- (2) requires a head coach or an assistant coach to complete a test demonstrating comprehension of the content of the course; and**
- (3) awards a certificate of completion to a head coach or an assistant coach who successfully completes the course.**

(b) A course described in subsection (a) must be approved by the department, in consultation with a physician licensed under IC 25-22.5 who has expertise in the area of concussions and brain injuries.

(c) A head coach and every assistant coach shall complete a course described in subsection (a) at least once each two (2) year period. If a head coach or an assistant coach receives notice from the school that new information has been added to the course before the end of the two (2) year period, the head coach or the assistant coach shall:

- (1) complete instruction; and**
- (2) successfully complete a test;**

concerning the new information to satisfy subsection (a).

(d) Each school shall maintain all certificates of completion awarded under subsection (a)(3) to each of the school's head coaches and assistant coaches.



(e) A head coach or an assistant coach who complies with this section and provides coaching services in good faith is not personally liable for damages in a civil action as a result of a concussion or head injury incurred by a student athlete participating in an athletic activity for which the head coach or the assistant coach provided coaching services, except for an act or omission by the head coach or the assistant coach that constitutes gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct."

Page 3, line 29, after "IC 20-34-7-6" insert "**and IC 20-34-7-7**".

Renumber all SECTIONS consecutively.

and when so amended that said bill do pass.

(Reference is to SB 234 as introduced.)

GROOMS, Chairperson

Committee Vote: Yeas 6, Nays 0.

